**Autobiography, Biography and Memoir**

**Autobiography**

A narrative account of an extended period of some person's life, **written by, or presented as having been written by, that person**; or the practice of writing such works. Autobiography differs from biography not only in its evidently more subjective narrative point of view but in its inconclusiveness: an *autobiographer* cannot recount her or his own death.

**Biography**

A narrative history of the life of some person; or the practice of writing such works. **Most biographies provide an account of the life of a notable individual from birth to death**, or in the case of living persons from birth to the time of writing; but some treat the connected lives of paired subjects or of groups (known as ‘group biography’); and since the late 20th century the term has been stretched to cover accounts of non-human subjects such as houses, cities, or commodities, in which case ‘a biography’ really means an intimate or gossipy history.

**Memoir**

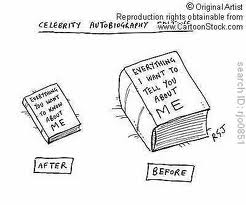
**A narrative recollection of the writer's earlier experiences**, especially those involving unusual people, places, or events. A memoir is commonly **distinguished from an autobiography by its greater emphasis on other people or upon events such as war and travel experienced in common with others**, and sometimes by its more episodic structure, which does not need to be tied to the personal development of the narrator; however, the terms are often still confounded. Memoirs are supposed to be non‐fictional.

**In your own words, write a definition of each type:**

**Autobiography**

**Biography**

**Memoir**

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**Biographies and Autobiographies**

Examples of some you have read or heard about:

Types of biographies: Can you think of an example of each?

* popular biographies-
* historical biographies-
* literary biographies-
* reference biographies-
* fictional biographies-

What makes you want to read them?

Do you have to know about the subject to enjoy it?

Do you hold expectations that you will learn something new about the subject?

Does the text have to make you want to do further research on the topic?

How personal are the details you expect from a biography?

Autobiographies and biographies can take many forms. What might these be?

**Types of memoir:**

Can you think of an example of each?

* Family-
* Travel-
* Dogs-
* Celebrity-
* Misery-

What other types or great memoirs have you read or heard about?

What are the boundaries a memoirist faces?

How reliable is a memoirist’s memory?

Are memoirs a form of \* narcissism? (\*an extreme interest in your own life)

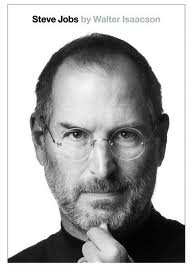
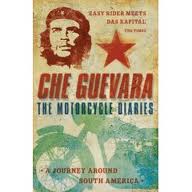
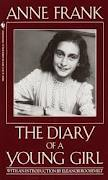
What makes people want to read memoirs?

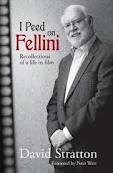
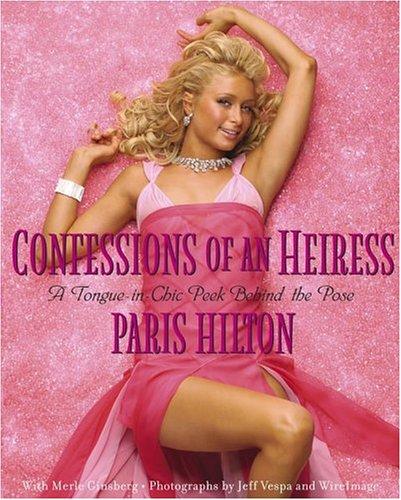
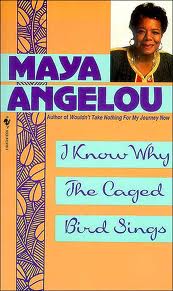
How do you decide what or who to include or omit?

Does age or experience make one memoir superior than another? Why or why not?



**Label the images below with Biography, Autobiography or Memoir**

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